



Dr. Calvin Ball

# THE CALVIN BALL BULLETIN

**December 2016**

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## Spotlight



**Stand Up for our Students-** Our goal in Howard County is to ensure the safety of all of students. If you witness Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation occur during the current school year on school property, at a school sponsored activity or event off school property, on a school bus, on the way to and/or from school, or on the Internet, sent on or off school property; or that substantially disrupted the orderly operation of the school. Please fill out the [Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation form](#) to make sure that our students' incidents are addressed for their safety.

## Happy Holidays - New Year Holiday Closings

While you enjoy a wonderful holiday with family and friends... Please be advised that there will be NO curbside collection of recycling, yard trim or trash in observance of New Years Day on **Monday, January 2, 2017**. The County will operate on its [Holiday Slide Schedule](#). A special Saturday household hazardous waste collection will be held at **Alpha Ridge Landfill** on **January 7, February 4** and **March 4**. For more information, go [online](#).

In addition, Howard County Government announces the following closings:

**Closed on Saturday, December 31**  
County Historic Sites

**Open Saturday, December 31**  
Alpha Ridge Landfill

**Closed Sunday, January 1**  
County Historic Sites  
Kiwanis-Wallas Hall  
Meadowbrook Athletic Center  
Robinson Nature Center  
Gary J. Arthur Community Center  
North Laurel Community Center  
Roger Carter Community Center  
No RTA Service  
Cedar Lane and Schooley Mill Activity Rooms  
Parking fees NOT enforced

**Open Sunday, January 1**  
County Parks





### **Closed on Monday, January 2**

County Government Offices  
Courts  
Animal Shelter  
Landfill and all trash and recycling services  
50+ Centers  
Parking fees NOT enforced  
Robinson Nature Center

### **Open Monday, January 2**

County Parks  
Kiwanis-Wallas Hall  
Meadowbrook Athletic Center  
Gary J. Arthur Community Center  
North Laurel Community Center  
Roger Carter Community Center  
County Historic Sites  
Cedar Lane and Schooley Mill Activity Room  
RTA operating on a "Sunday" schedule

The County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **Tuesday, January 3**. As always, the 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call **9-1-1**; for non-emergencies, please call **410-313-2200**.



### **Merry Mulch - Holiday Tree Drop-off**

Now that the holidays are over, you may be wondering what to do with your tree. Look no further! The Merry Mulch holiday tree drop off is a great place for you to drop off your holiday tree and let the professionals compost it into mulch. Your participation will help keep thousands of trees out of the county landfill. Drop off sites include:

**Clarksville-** Kendall Hardware, 12260 Route 108 & **River Hill Garden Center**, 12165 Route 108

**Columbia-** Cedar Lane Park, 5081 Cedar Lane & **Grandfather's Garden Center**, 5320 Phelps Luck Drive

**Elkridge-** Rockburn Park, 5400 Landing Road

**Ellicott City-** Small Circuit Court parking lot, Upper Court House Drive (just past Ellicott Mills Dr, on the right)

**Highland-** Schooley Mill Park, 12975 Hall Shop Road

**Marriottsville-** Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area, 2350 Marriottsville Road - NOTE: ARL will be CLOSED Monday, January 2nd, 2017

**Savage-** Savage Park, 8400 Fair Street

**Woodbine-** Western Regional Park, 14800 Carrs Mill Road

The drop-off sites will be up and running through **January 21, 2017** from **7:30am-5pm**.

### **Boards and Commissions - Nominations Accepted**

Interested in volunteering and giving back to our community? You are cordially invited to apply for a position on our Boards and Commissions. For a list, click [here](#). Below is information on our current vacancy. To apply, applicants should send a resume and brief letter explaining why they would like to serve to [David Lee](#) or by mail to: **Howard County Government, Office of the County Executive, Attn: David Lee, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043**.

**Human Rights Commission-** Eligible candidates must be Howard County residents, have an interest in human/civil rights and be able to attend the Commission's meetings on the third Thursday of each month from **7-9pm** in the **George Howard Building**, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. The deadline to apply is **Friday, December 30** at **5pm**.

### **Annual Holiday Train Garden**

Come join us for the [Annual Holiday Train Garden](#), newly designed each and every year open through **January 1, 2017**. Train Garden hours: **Wednesday-Friday 6:30-8:30pm; Saturday**



and Sunday 11am-8:30pm. Holiday Hours: 12/31 New Years Eve-11am-8:30pm. For more information, please call 410-313-2036.



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## County's MIHU Now Accepting Applications - Apply Today!



Looking for affordable housing in Howard County? Howard County Housing will begin accepting applications for its Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program from **January 3rd-January 31** during its first open enrollment period for 2017. This program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income and at reduced sale prices and rents to income eligible families.

DHCD will hold two free MIHU workshops to explain the program's eligibility requirements and application process for prospective homebuyers and renters. The Renters Workshop will be held on **Tuesday, January 17th** and the MIHU Buyers Workshop will take place on **Wednesday, January 18th**. They are both open to the public and will be held **6-8pm** at the **Gateway Bldg, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia**. Guidewell Financial Solutions will be on hand to present information regarding the importance of credit scores in the home buying and rental processes.

In addition to these workshops, DHCD will also offer a FREE First-Time Homebuyer's Workshop on **Monday, January 23rd 6-9pm** at the same location. Held monthly, this workshop focuses on the critical areas of home buying, from homeownership readiness and budgeting and credit usage, to financing a home. Registration is required for this workshop. To register, interested persons should call **410-313-6328** or email [homebuyerclass@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:homebuyerclass@howardcountymd.gov).

Open enrollment is held quarterly. Those interested in enrolling should call **410-313-6343** or visit the MIHU [Website](#).

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## The Symphony of Lights has Returned

You and your family are cordially invited to come out and drive through the Symphony of Lights. This year, drive through visitors will enjoy all new LED lights, new light displays in addition to your traditional favorites, a new laser light show and 3-D holiday video! The drive through at **Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods** will open until **Sunday, January 1**, 5 days a week, **Wednesdays-Sundays, 5:30-10pm, including holidays**. CLOSED to drive-through traffic on **Mondays and Tuesdays**. CLOSED **December 31st** for the Midnight at 7 event. Tickets **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday** are \$20 per car, and \$25 per car on **Saturdays**. Cash only will be accepted at the gate. ATMs are NOT available on-site. [Read More.](#)



### Magic Ice Skating Rink

In addition to the refurbished Symphony of Lights drive through, come out and enjoy Merriweather Post Pavilion's outdoor Ice Skating Rink. The rink will be open from **3-8pm Tuesday-Thursday**, and **noon-9pm Friday-Sunday** through **Sunday, January 8**. Special group rates and private events will also be offered. Go [online](#) for more information.

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## What To Know When You See Snow

Now that winter has arrived, here are some helpful hints and reminders courtesy of our Department of Public Works:





#### **Getting Plowed In**

Tired of getting snowed in by the snow plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb - about the length of a parking space - ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway.

#### **Cars Parked on Public Streets**

Parked cars are one of the biggest challenges of our snow crews.

County residential streets are plowed one time per snowstorm. Once the county crews clear the snow off your street, they will not return to plow your street a second time. Please park your cars in driveways and off public streets so plows can clear as much snow as possible.

#### **Cars Parked in Cul-de-Sacs**

County truck drivers cannot safely push the snow in cul-de-sacs where cars are parked. Rather than risk damaging county or private vehicles, the driver will leave and come back later after he finishes the rest of his route.

#### **Guard Against Flooding**

Uncover and clear area around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding. After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported to the Bureau of Utilities at **410-313-4900**.

#### **Clearing Your Sidewalks**

"It is the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen." (Howard County Code, Section 18.402(h). If you are willing to help remove snow for seniors or physically disabled individuals in your neighborhood, please call the Office on Aging - Maryland Access Point at **410-313-5980** to volunteer for the Snow Patrol Program. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope. If you need assistance with snow removal and are 60 or older, or younger than 60 with a physical disability, and a resident of Howard County, you may register as a Snow Patrol client. New clients are put on a waiting list and are contacted only if a Snow Patrol volunteer in his/her area becomes available. To register as a client, call **410-313-5980**.

#### **Did It Snow On...**

*"Trash" Day?* If it snows on your trash day, put your trash out for collection as usual - before 6am. If trash collection has been canceled for the day, the trash contractors will pick up trash the next work day if roads are passable.

*"Recycling" Day?* If it snows on your Recycling day, and recycling has been canceled for the day, recycled will be picked up the following week. To find out if trash or cycling collections were canceled for the day, call **410-313-SORT (7678)**.

#### **Please be patient...**

During inclement weather, trash and recycling trucks must travel slowly and safely. Remember, the contractors have until 7pm to pick up your trash and recyclables. Questions about snow removal? Email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

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## **Community Service Partnership Grants**

CSP grants support the delivery of essential human services in Howard County. Funding priority is given to services that meet basic needs and provide opportunities to become self-sufficient. CSP funds may be used for agency operating expenses, program costs, direct client assistance or one-time expenses that directly serve the community. To be eligible, an agency must have already attended the mandatory pre-application information session held in early November, be a 501(c)(3) non-profit and serve the residents of Howard County. [Applications](#) are due **Monday, January 2, 2017**.

For more information, contact **Megan Godfrey Jackson** at **410-313-5996** or email [mgodfrey@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mgodfrey@howardcountymd.gov)

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## **HCC Happenings**

### **Open Registration for Winter and Spring**

Register today for the 2017 Winter and Spring Semesters! Open registration for the Winter semester is through **January 2**. Classes begin **January 3**. Late registration is open prior to the second class meeting and the deadline for financial aid recipients is **February 17**. Open registration for the Spring semester is open through **January 30, 2017**, and classes begin **January 28**. Late registration is open prior to the second class meeting and the deadline for financial aid recipients is



also **February 17**. For those graduating, you have until **March 15th** to apply for graduation. Visit HCC's [website](#) for more information.

### Kids on Campus

#### Year-Round Classes:

HCC offers year-round classes for kids on weekends or on weekday evenings. HCC also offers weekday courses for homeschool students to learn more about specific topics in our state-of-the-art labs and facilities. Click [here](#) for more information.

### SAT, ACT & Other Test Preparation

HCC offers the opportunity for High school students to prepare at HCC for SAT, ACT, and other standardized testing. Click [here](#) for details.

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### Career Academies Information Session

All secondary school students and parents are cordially invited to "Focus on Your Future." Participants will hear from current Academy students and alumni about the opportunities, internships and projects they are involved with. The information session is from **7-9pm** on **Thursday, January 5, 2017**, at the **HCPSS Applications and Research Laboratory** at 10920 Clarksville Pike in Ellicott City. Go [online](#) for more information.

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### HoCo Open 2017



Artists, the Arts Council is celebrating its 36th anniversary and the spotlight's on you! If you live, work, or study in Howard County, you're invited to take part in a special edition of the HoCo Open, our popular non-juried, biennial exhibit. Simply bring one piece of original artwork completed in the past two years to the drop-off on **January 5, 2017** from **4:30-6:30pm**. Artwork will be accepted for the exhibit on a first-come basis, one piece per artist, until the gallery is full. [HoCo Open entry forms](#) are available.

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### Oakland Mills Community Association



#### Renew. Rehab. Replace. Universal Design Strategies for Aging in Place

Calling all new and long-time homeowners, you are invited to come out to the **Other Barn** in the Oakland Mills Village Center, **Saturday, January 7** from **9:30am-12:30pm** for a 3-hour workshop on possibilities for redesigning our homes and communities for aging in place. This event is free and open to the public. Email [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) to RSVP.



#### HC DrugFree

Are you a Howard County high school student looking for opportunities to serve our community? Then you are cordially invited to join the HC DrugFree Teen Advisory Council. Join the Teen Advisory Council on **January 9** from **5:30-7pm** at **The Barn (Teen Center)** in the **Oakland Mills Village Center**. Free pizza will be provided, so please complete the 2016-17 online registration for and RSVP to [admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:admin@hcdrugfree.org). Check out the [website](#) for more information.

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### College and Career Readiness Regional Meetings

Calling all HCPSS Parents. You are invited to 3 upcoming sessions to learn how parents and the school system can work together to ensure that students graduate ready for success. In breakout sessions, HCPSS personnel will discuss course trajectories, shifts in classroom instruction, and what parents/guardians can do at home to support their children. Breakout sessions include mathematics, language arts/social studies, science, and career planning and high school Career Academies. All sessions are from 7-9 p.m. at the following locations: **January 9, 2017, Long Reach High School; January 11, 2017, Glenelg High School; January 24, 2017, Wilde Lake High School**. For more information, visit the [website](#).



## Deer Management Program

The Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule for the deer bow and shotgun managed hunts of **2016-2017**. These hunts are held to maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population. The program gives specially screened and selected hunters daytime access to a park. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed [online](#). For more details call **410-313-1675**.

Alpha Ridge Park (Bow & Shotgun)	<b>January 10 and 24</b> (both days will occur in the morning in conjunction with a managed hunt in the adjacent park from <b>5:30-11am</b> ; <b>March 15</b>
Belmont Park	<b>January 11; February 1</b>
David Force Park (Bow & Shotgun)	<b>January 31</b>
Dorsey Hall Open Space	<b>December 28; February 22; March 8</b>
Gorman Area (Middle Patuxent River and Kings Contrivance; Bow & Shotgun)	<b>January 5 &amp; 26; February 9 &amp; 16</b>
Gray Rock Open Space	<b>February 22; March 8</b>
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (Bow & Shotgun)	<b>January 5 &amp; 26; February 9 &amp; 16</b>
River's Edge Open Space	<b>January 18</b>
Robinson Nature Center	<b>January 11</b>
Savage Park	<b>January 18</b>
Timbers at Troy Golf Course	<b>January 18</b>
West Friendship Park (Bow & Shotgun)	<b>January 12; February 2 &amp; 14</b>

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## Board of Education - Cluster Appointments for 2016-2017

Unsure which Board of Education elected official is appointed to your cluster schools? Below is a list of the members and their respective schools. If you have any questions or concerns in these schools, you are invited to contact them directly. For more information, go [online](#).

**Cynthia L. Vailancourt**, Chair. Due to her position as Chair, Ms. Vaillancourt is not assigned any cluster schools.

**Dr. Bess Altwerger**, Vice Chair- Atholton/Oakland Mills

**Kirsten Coombs**-Glenelg/Wilde Lake

**Christina Delmont-Small**-Howard/Marriotts Ridge

**Sandra French**-Centennial/Long Reach

**Mavis Ellis**-Hammond/Reservoir

**Christine O'Connor**-Mount Hebron/River Hill

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## Nominations Sought for HCPSS Principal of the Year & Teacher of the Year Awards

Nominations are now open for The Washington Post [Principal of the Year](#) and [Teacher of the Year](#) awards (formerly Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, respectively). All nominations are due to HCPSS no later than **Tuesday, January 17, 2017**. Any questions may be directed to the HCPSS Public Information Office, **410-313-6682** or [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org).

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## Howard County Winter Restaurant Weeks!



Explore your Culinary Culture during Howard County's Restaurant Weeks! **January 23 - February 6, 2017** residents and food enthusiasts are invited to explore their taste buds and dine on decadence at participating restaurants. Chefs' specialty menus are prepared at prefixed prices. Menus will be posted when they are received.

This is a fantastic opportunity to boost our Howard County restaurant business while bringing the community together. Check [online](#) for more details.

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## HopeWorks

Help restock the HopeWorks pantry! Items needed include: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, ethnic hair products, baby wipes, rice, cereal, breakfast bars, soups, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, paper towels, feminine hygiene pads, crackers, granola bars and juice boxes. To donate, call (410) 997-0304 or email [Joyce](#), Volunteer Program Coordinator. For information and updates, go [online](#).

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## Medicare 101: What You Can Expect From Medicare



Did you recently enroll in Medicare or will be going on soon? Do you help someone who has Medicare as his or her health insurance? This presentation covers how Medicare Parts A (Hospital), B (Medical), and D (Prescription Drug) work, what the benefits are, and when you should make decisions related to your coverage. Find out about benefit programs that can help pay for Medicare health care costs. Sponsored by the State

Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Howard County Office on Aging and Independence. Register by calling **(410) 313-7389**. Events will be held on:

**Thursday, January 19, 2017, 7pm-8:30pm** at the **Brain Center 50+ Center**, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia 21044

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 10am-11:30am** at the **Ellicott City 50+ Center**, 9411 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City 21042

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 7pm-8:30pm** at the **Howard County General Hospital - Wellness Center**, 10710 Charter Dr., Suite 100, Columbia 21044

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 1pm-2:30pm** at the **North Laurel 50+ Center**, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd., Laurel 20723

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## World Language Cafe

Columbia Association's World Languages Café began in early 2013 as a way to provide great evenings of conversations and culture in more than a dozen different languages. The café will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the **50+ Center** at the **East Columbia Library**, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Owen Brown. Upcoming sessions are **7-9pm** on: **January 24, February 28, March 28**.

Languages include: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Language tables are hosted by native speakers will facilitate conversations. Most people who attend already have some fluency in the language and can put sentences together; these gatherings are not grammar or vocabulary classes. For more information go [online](#), email [International@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:International@ColumbiaAssociation.org) or call **410-715-3162**.

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## Medicare 102: Why Medicare Isn't Enough

Learn about Medicare Advantage/Health Plans (Part C) and Medicare Supplement Policies (Medigap). What should you consider when deciding which Medicare choices are right for you? Understand how plans vary, your costs and when is the best time to enroll. Learn how to protect yourself and Medicare from healthcare fraud. To register call **(410) 313-7389**. Will be held:

**Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7pm-8:30pm** at the **Brain 50+ Center**, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia 21044

**Wednesday February 15, 2017, 10am-11:30am** at the **Ellicott City 50+ Center**, 9411 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City 21042

**Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 7am-8:30am**, at the **Howard County General Hospital Wellness Center**, 10710 Charter Dr., Suite 100, Columbia 21044

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 1pm-2:30pm** at the **North Laurel 50+ Center**, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd., Laurel 20723

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## Holiday Festival of Trains



The Festival of Trains will run **Friday-Sunday, 10:30am 4:30pm** until **January 29, 2017**- Come out to the **B&O Railroad Museum** and enjoy toy and model train layouts including a custom-built, 360 degree multi-tiered O-Scale layout, a miniature Thomas the Tank Engine G-scale layout, and more! For more details, click [here](#).

## Ms. Biz Mornings



Ms. Biz Mornings is a FREE networking group for women in business hosted the Tuesday mornings of every month (**8:30-10am**). Events are held at a different local business each month. For more information visit [Ms. Biz online](#). The 2017 upcoming meetings are as follows:

- **January 3, 2017**- Kelsey's Closet - 11200 Scaggsville Rd Laurel/Fulton
- **January 17**- Sponsored by Karen Stebner/Primerica, 9030 Red Branch Road #150, Columbia
- **February 7, 2017**- LulaRoe/Pattie Robinson, 9030 Red Branch Road #150, Columbia
- **February 21** - Sponsored by Debby Barry/Life Transitions Designs Coaching- 9030 Red Branch Road #150, Columbia

## 2017 Sister Cities Exchange Program

Next summer, experience a different culture and travel abroad! The Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange Program offers a once-in-a lifetime international opportunity for Howard County high school students studying Spanish or French where teens can experience what it's like to be a teen in one of Columbia's sister cities in **Europe-Tres Cantos, Spain** and **Cergy-Pontoise, France**. Participants spend approximately two weeks of cultural and linguistic immersion during the month of July in one of those cities.



To learn more about the program, parents and teens are invited to attend the upcoming information sessions on **Wednesday, January 25** from **7-8pm** at **CA's Headquarters**, 6310 Hillside Court in Columbia. The program fee is \$700/Columbia residents and \$850/non-Columbia residents, excluding airline tickets which can range \$1,200-\$1,500/participant. Applicants must have also completed level three of French or Spanish by the end of the current academic year (or have the equivalent language fluency). There are excellent scholarships available for Columbia residents who qualify.

Also the Sister Cities Program is offering the first-ever high school student summer exchange between the community of **Columbia, Maryland**, and its sister city of **Tema, Ghana**, in 2017. Interested teens and their parents are invited to learn more at the final information sessions hosted by Columbia Association (CA) on **Wednesday, January 4** from **7-8pm** at the **CA Headquarters**, 6310 Hillside Court, located off Stevens Forest Road near the county vehicle emissions inspection station. At the information session, Laura Smit (program manager for CA's International Exchange and Multicultural Programs) and several members of the Tema Sister City Committee, who are familiar with Ghana and Ghanaian culture, will speak and answer questions about the month-long exchange program. The application deadline is **February 17**. Applications will be available online at the end of **December**.

For an application or more information, visit the [website](#), contact **Laura Smit** at **410-715-3162** or email [International@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:International@ColumbiaAssociation.org).



## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency that empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter & outreach services. They provide programs & services including 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter & Day Resource Center.

The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD**





## Preschool and Child Care Information Fair

Parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel-mark your calendars for the 2016 Preschool & Child Care Information Fair "Children On Board" on **January 29, 2017 1-4pm** at **Ten Oaks Ballroom**, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville. This annual Fair offers a "one stop shop" for information on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as

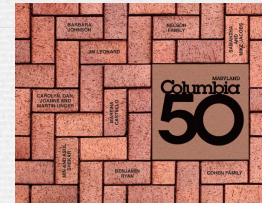
well as an

opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that offer programs and services to Howard County's young children will also be on hand to provide information. Go [online](#) for more information, call **410-313-1940** or email [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov).

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## CA Buy-A-Brick Program - Celebrates Columbia's 50th Birthday

CA is once again hosting this special program in honor of Columbia's 50th Birthday Celebration that takes place in 2017. A section of the walkway at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront will be reserved for bricks placed around a large paver that says Columbia Maryland 50 (image to the right). The cost for bricks in this section are \$100/brick. The costs for bricks in other areas of the walkway are \$75/brick. Limit three lines of text. There is a 15-character limit per line of text. Spaces between words count as a character. The deadline to purchase bricks for placement in summer of 2017 is **February 24, 2017**. No purchases will be accepted after that date. Also, if you purchase multiple bricks, CA cannot guarantee they will be placed next to one another.



## 2017 "Sophie Altman Coach of the Year Award"

Calling all IT'S ACADEMIC teams...to honor the memory of IT'S ACADEMIC's creator and long-term producer, Sophie Altman, Giant Food is presenting the 2017 "Sophie Altman Coach of the Year Award." This award is intended as a tribute to all IT'S ACADEMIC coaches. To nominate your school's IT'S ACADEMIC coach, send an e-mail to [itsacademicaward@aol.com](mailto:itsacademicaward@aol.com) containing why you would like to honor your coach. Coaches can be nominated by individuals or by groups as long as nominators are members of the school community. The Deadline for nominations is **March 31, 2017** and the winner will be announced on the Championship show in **June**.

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## 9th Annual WomenFest - Vendors Sought



The County's Department of Community Resources and Services invites businesses that offer products or services which promote women's health, wellness, fashion and beauty to register for exhibit space at this year's WomenFest. This is an interactive day which focuses on health, wellness, fashion, and beauty; and features 90+ vendors and exhibitors, free health screenings, and interactive seminars. This signature event for women will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 10am-3pm**, at the **Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood**, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville. Admission and Parking are free.

[Read more](#)

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## Downtown Columbia Eats App

We're serving up a different way of dining which makes going out to dinner an extra treat in Downtown Columbia. [Downtown Columbia Eats!](#) is a loyalty program for participating restaurants and eateries in Downtown Columbia including Petit Louis Bistro, Union Jack's, Seasons 52, Whole Foods, and the Nordstrom Café. The app is powered by Loyaltap and is available to download for FREE via the Apple Store and Google Play. Download today and begin saving.





## Metropolitan Washington Ear: A Free News/Information Service for the Visually Impaired

Metropolitan Washington Ear provides free news and information services for blind, visually-impaired and physically disabled residents with goals to strive to *substitute hearing for seeing*, improving the lives of people with little or no vision by enabling them to be well-informed, fully-productive members of their families, their communities and the working world. Free services that the Metropolitan Washington Ear include:

- 24/7 radio broadcast using radios pre-tuned to our station and a subcarrier channel from WETA-FM
- 24/7 **telephone dial-in news and information** service accessed by using a touch-tone telephone that allows the caller to skip and scan newspapers, magazines, and other information just as a sighted person does when reading a publication.
- **Audio-Description** of live stage performances in eight theaters in the DC metropolitan area, as well as designated performances for the Washington Revels, the Hexagon revue and others as requested.
- **Symphony Notes** for the National Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Strathmore.
- Personal **look-up service** every evening.
- **Natural Voices** rather than computer-generated voices for easier listening.

For more information go [online](#), contact **301-681-6636** or [information@washear.org](mailto:information@washear.org).

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## Scam ALERT

### Charitable Foundations

The Howard County Office of Consumer Protection is warning residents to use caution and common sense when dealing with solicitors who claim to represent firefighter associations or others seeking donations to aid people who have been affected by fire or natural disaster. It is important to take the time to check where your generosity is going regardless of the cause.

### Utilities Calls

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Howard County Office of Consumer Protection are warning residents to use caution when dealing with callers claiming to be a representative with the consumer's local gas or electric utility company, stating that immediate payment, often by prepaid debit cards, credit cards or gift cards, is due to ensure the consumer's heating service is not disconnected.

The Office of Consumer Affairs also advises:

- Do not answer calls from unknown numbers, Let them go to voicemail.
  - No legitimate business will demand payment via gift cards, prepaid debit cards or wire transfer.
  - If you are not sure if a caller is legitimate, hang up, look up the company's phone number independently, and use that number to verify the call with the company.
  - If you get a recorded message asking you to hit a phone key to stop getting calls, just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify, and then target, live respondents.
  - Ask your phone service provider if it offers a robocall blocking service that allows subscribers to block unwanted calls. If not, encourage your provider to start offering a blocking service. Visit the FCC's website for more information and resources on available blocking tools at [www.fcc.gov/unwanted-calls](http://www.fcc.gov/unwanted-calls).
  - Residents who have lost money or feel their personal safety is at risk due to a scam should contact the Howard County Police Department's non-emergency phone number at **410-313-2200** to file a report.
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## Tips to Keep Your Pipes from Freezing

With brutally cold temperatures coming our way this winter, Howard County Government's Bureau of Utilities offers the following steps to protect pipes from freezing and potentially bursting:

For water pipes located on or next to an outside wall, in a garage or any other unheated building take note of the following precautions:

- Wrap or insulate exposed pipes susceptible to low temperatures



- Wrap or insulate exposed pipes susceptible to low temperatures.
- Utilize other devices such as heat tape, to help keep pipes from freezing.
- Leave hot and cold water dripping on nights when temperatures dip below 15 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Some pipes, such as those located in cabinets, may be situated against an outside wall and while they may be insulated, residents should leave cabinet doors open to allow heat in the room to keep pipes warm and prevent freezing.

#### Additional Suggestions:

- Turn off and drain outside hose bibs.
- Know where the main water cutoff valve is and how it works.
- Seal air leaks that allow icy blasts to reach pipes.
- For homes with crawl spaces, close outside air vents located in the foundation wall during extremely cold temperatures to keep exposed plumbing from freezing,
- If you have a programmable thermostat, consider leaving it at a constant temperature, never below 45 degrees Fahrenheit.
- If you are going on an extended vacation, set your thermostat to at least 45 degrees Fahrenheit or above.

If your pipes do freeze, the Bureau recommends opening the cold water faucet nearest the frozen pipe to relieve pressure. Then, use a gentle heat source such as a light bulb or hair dryer, to thaw the pipe. DO NOT use an open flame.

If you lose water or experience sewage back-up in your home, call the County first to determine if there is a break in the water main or a blockage in the sewer beyond your property. During regular business hours, call the Bureau of utilities at **410-313-4900**. After hours and on the weekends, call Central Dispatch at **410-313-2929**.

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### Grasscycle!

Cutting the grass is a part of everyone's summer chores, but here are some tips on how to save time, energy and the environment!

Try GrassCycling - leaving the grass clippings on your lawn as you mow to recycle naturally. Grasscycling is a gentle way to release nitrogen gradually on your lawn. It also saves you from bagging and dragging your grass clippings to the curb for pickup.

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